

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

It is an object of the invention to provide an inexpensive bleaching composition. We have found that iodine may be used at surprisingly low levels such that extinction coefficient of the iodine in the visible does not discolour a white textile. In general, the level of iodine [in] used in bleaching is lower than that conventionally used for hygiene applications.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Stains~~ Stains were created on white woven cotton by placing three drops of either

(a) 0.1% wt. solution of beta-carotene in sunflower oil,

or

(b) saturated solution of turmeric in sunflower oil.

The stains were washed at 30°C in 300 ml of water containing 2.1 g of Persil Colour™ washing powder. The wash contained two beta-carotene stained cloths, two turmeric stained cloths and two clean pieces of cotton cloth (white ballast), with a total weight of 5g. After the wash the cloths were rinsed in an acidic solution, dried in a tumble dryer for 10 minutes and the residual staining relative to clean white cloth measured using a reflectometer and expressed as the ΔE value. The discoloration of the white ballast due to transfer of coloured matter in the wash was measured in an analogous manner.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

The experimental was similar to that of Example 1; 150 ml of water at 40 °C was used with 1g of Persil ~~Colour~~ Colour™ and following the wash and rinse the stains were irradiated in a Weatherometer for 12 minutes. The Weatherometer produces artificial sunlight and simulates line drying. The cloth weighed a total of 6.4g and had been aged over night. The turmeric stains were created with four drops of the oil.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The experimental was similar to that of Example 1; 150 ml of water at 40 °C was used with 1g of Persil ~~Colour~~ Colour™ and following the wash and rinse the stains were irradiated in a Weatherometer for 12 minutes. The Weatherometer produces artificial sunlight and simulates line drying. The cloth weighed a total of 6.4g and had been aged over night. The turmeric stains were created with four drops of the oil.